

Private Journal of The British Crosby Society.

Honorary President: Bing Crosby.
 " Vice " Larry Crosby.
 Active Co-Presidents: Dorothy Hardiman.
 Jean Rainey.
 Discologist: ... Colin Puch.

Honorary Members
 include:-
 Norman Wisdom, Ted Ray,
 Ronnie Waldman,
 J.K. Wilson,
 Jack Buchanan.

EDITORIAL - By: Dot Hardiman.

Hello Members,

Here is your first journal under new management - we hope it meets with your approval. We have had to do away with illustrations for the time being but as this gives you more reading space we have a feeling you won't mind. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you all for your wonderful letters of encouragement and offers of help; with such loyal and enthusiastic members the society cannot fail ... I'm sorry I could not answer all of your letters personally and know you will understand how busy I have been, coping with the 101 jobs entailed in producing a journal. You can rest assured that I will do my utmost to keep the wheels turning and to give you the articles you enjoy reading in "Post". However there is one urgent problem CASH. Funds are very low at the moment which is understandable considering the recent crisis. We did not expect you to send money without concrete evidence of the Society's survival, but now that we are re-established we must appeal for the prompt payment of all subscriptions. Some of you are in the habit of letting them slide until the next journal is due which doesn't help one little bit - we need the money to get the "Post" out - it's quite an expensive business. May I beg all members with an 'X' on this journal to try and send their fees before December 1st, thus ensuring a Xmas edition. A special word of thanks to members Lil Williams, Sheila Willett, Jean Steward, Ron Davies, Colin Pugh and Frank Murphy, who will each be actively concerned with the production of "Post", and last but by no means least to Jean Rainey, who has offered to carry on behind the scenes (as it were) in spite of the difficulties arising from a new occupation. I know you will join me in wishing Jean much happiness in her very worth-while task of caring for the children in Dr. Barnado's Homes.

For those of you who might have missed the announcement in "Picturegoer", the B.B.C. will be screening excerpts from Crosby films in a pre-Christmas T.V. programme. For further details watch the "Radio Times". With that pleasant remark I'll leave you, hoping to be with you all again in December.

Until then - Bingcerely,
 DOT.

A LETTER FROM JEAN RAINEY

Dear Members,

I can't tell you how pleased I am to know that the Crosby Society is to be continued after all. When I took this residential post at Dr. Barnardo's Homes my main regret was having to give up my work for the Society. It has been a favourite occupation of mine for years and now that I have had to give up my main activities in it I feel lost. Dot Hardiman and I are very grateful to all of you who, so willingly offered your services to help keep the Society going. We knew that you wouldn't let us down, and I know that Dot will continue in the high standard you have come to expect from your society. If any other members feel they would like to help, Dot will be more than happy to hear from them. If you could write articles or suggest anything to help the quality of "Post" please get in touch with Dot as soon as you can. I am pleased that the "White Christmas" get together is still very much in the foreground. The film opens at the "Plaza", London, on November 5th, and if any of you care to join our party you will be very welcome. For further particulars write to Miss Ellen Clark, 21, Faraday Dwellings, Brightlingsea Place, London, E.14. I shall do my utmost to get time off for this important event and look forward to

meeting you. My very best wishes to you all and may the Society and the man for whom it is run prosper for many years to come.

Sincerely,
JEAN.

NEWS FROM PARAMOUNT

IRVING BERLIN, America's foremost composer of popular music, will leave America for London on Nov. 1st to participate in the gala premiere activities for "White Christmas" the lavish Vista Vision musical for Paramount. The composer will be accompanied by Mrs. Birkin. "White Christmas" which stars Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney and Vera Ellen is not only the first film to be made in Vista Vision but also the first picture with original Berlin music for more than ten years. Berlin wrote 10 new songs for this spectacular subject in Technicolour. Bing Crosby and Danny Kaye are teamed for the first time in "White Christmas" - they were one day on a gigantic set representing a small-town theatre putting on a white face minstrel show with Vera Ellen and Rosemary Clooney. It is an intricate song and dance routine, which they rehearsed for weeks - but even so there was trouble when Dance Director Robert Alton finally called for cameras. First of all the elevator that carried Vera Ellen above the huge chorus on stage did not work properly. Then one small detail or another served to dissatisfy Alton. So Bing, Danny and the girls went through part of the routine six times. Then they did a "take" which everyone thought perfect. Bing took off his shoes and rubbed his aching feet - Danny wiped the sweat from his brow - this was hard. This was hard physical work as well as being mentally exacting. They looked forward to a few minutes rest before going on to the next scene, but their hopes were shattered by Alton - "got" to do it "again". "Nothing wrong with the performance that last shot, but there was a tiny hair on the camera lens". "So, what's wrong with a tiny hair on the lens?" asked Kaye. "Nothing" replies Alton - nothing at all - except that when it's blown up on the large screen that tiny hair will look as if you're dancing with a boa-constrictor in your teeth!" Bing took it in his stride patting the top of his scalp. "Why, oh why, couldn't that hair have been up here where I could really use it?" he grinned.... Vera Ellen, who dances to new heights of stardom with Bing and Danny in "White Christmas" has been elected an Honorary life-time member of the Dance Masters of America.

MY PERSONAL FEELINGS ABOUT BING.

Looking back over Bing Crosby's 28 years in show business and reminiscing on the many honours show land has showered on him during that time, I find myself proud of the fact that I am a Bing fan.

I'm grateful to Bing for providing me with some very happy evenings spent at home, roaming at leisure through my collection of what I term "CROSBY CLASSICS".

I'm happy to entertain friends who like Bing, and I like to think I know all the goings on in Crosby land, about his newest films, and latest records, etc.

I like to visit my city cinema when a Bing film is being shown, and sit with my fellow audience enjoying with them the songs Bing sings, his warm humour, and grave drama, displayed so contrastingly in his latest films "ROAD TO BALI" and "LITTLE BOY LOST".

As far as I am concerned Bing will never fade, maybe "HELLO YOUNG LOVERS" "YOUNG AT HEART" and "CHANGING PARTNERS", differ greatly from the Bing of the early thirties singing in his then so vibrant voice such hits as, "I APOLOGIZE", "GOODNIGHT SWEETHEART" and "JUST ONE MORE CHANCE", but I feel that the Bing of today still has very much to offer, and I sincerely hope that he will, as he himself put it in a recent article "I GUESS I'LL JUST KEEP, KEEPING ON", so that my fellow Bing fans and I, may have for many more years of enjoying the magical tones of the voice that is, BING CROSBY'S. - The End - FRANK MURPHY.

N.B. Grateful thanks to Frank for the above article, and congratulations upon promoted trainee cinema manager at the Essoldo, Newcastle. Frank hopes to be managing his own Cinema by Christmas and we can be sure that any Crosby film will be boosted to the maximum. Good luck, Frank!

WE TAKE GREAT PLEASURE IN REPRODUCING A LETTER FROM MR. ALAN LADD THE POPULAR FILM STAR AND LIFELONG FRIEND OF BING. The Society wishes Alan every success in his first venture into the production branch of filming.

A L A N L A D D

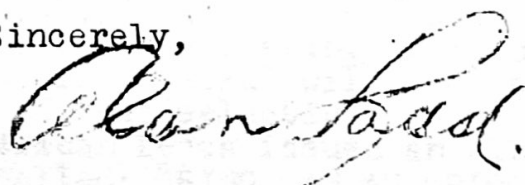
Dear Dorothy:

Sorry I was not able to acknowledge your letter more promptly, but when it arrived I was on location in Arizona. Have just completed the picture and as this one, "Drum Beat", is the first to be produced by my own independent company, I have had very little time to go over the mail. Hope you will understand the delay - and as you no doubt have the journal out by this time, will just write a short note which may do for some future issue of "Crosby Post".

Yes, Sue and I count Bing Crosby among our dearest friends. We live quite near each other and the Crosby boys are often at the house for a swim or a party when they are home on vacation. Bing's recordings, both old and new, are our most treasured records and we never miss one of his pictures. While we were in Europe, Bing and Lindsay visited us in London during the Coronation and we all had a wonderful time. However we have not seen so much of him this summer. As you have no doubt read, Bing took off for his ranch early and did a lot of fishing while Gary took over the radio program. I certainly envied him the cool summer up north while Sue and I were in Arizona during one of the hottest months of the year. Now it's our turn to relax a bit and we will be out at the ranch until my next picture goes into production in the fall.

Nice to hear from you, Dorothy, and Sue joins me in all best wishes to you and your club members.

Sincerely,



THE CROSBY WAXWORKS - By Colin Pugh.

In our last issue, space did not permit me to deal with the Long Playing issues of Bing, and as there has not been a single 78 rpm release since "Cornbelt Symphony"/"The Call Of The South", I propose bringing you right up to date on L.P.

The first of these is LA8673 entitled "SOME FINE OLD CHESTNUTS". You'll recall I gave the American issue of this before, and the songs are also the same; all with the Buddy Cole Trio. As none of these songs is issued at 78 rpm, most of you will want to get this L.P. so I will review it briefly. There is no need to deal with each of the eight songs individually as they all receive the same treatment: the first chorus sung very slowly to Buddy Cole on the piano, then a second chorus at a fast swing with the Trio for accompaniment. All the songs are in excellent voice and although five of the titles have been recorded by Bing before, these are all new versions and the other three have not been recorded commercially before. These three are: "Sleepy Time Gal" (and the other two which are different songs of the same title) "I Never Knew".

The second L.P. is LA8674 called "BING SINGS THE HITS" and although I gave the U.S. L.P. grouping under this title in an earlier review, we are booked for a disappointment, for it differs from our English Brunswick grouping to the extent of three tunes which have been replaced by three others already available on 78's here. This means that the only title we shall get that is unissued here on 78 is "Vaya Con Dios". The other seven titles are: "My Love, My Love"; "Down By The Riverside"; "Hello Young Lovers"; "Secret Love"; "I've Never Been In Love Before"; "Changing Partners"; "Y'all Come". BING SINGS THE HITS might well turn out to be the first of a series of L.P.'s to appear under this heading, in which case it will be useless for us to look for any correlation between the American and English issues; this first one would prove this point anyway.

The next L.P. release is LA8675 under the title "SONG HITS FROM BROADWAY SHOWS" and the titles on this one are:- "People Will Say We're In Love"; "Oh What A Beautiful Morning"; "If I Loved You"; "Close As Pages In A Book"; "They Say Its Wonderful"; "I Love You"; "Evelina"; "The Eagle And Me". As you will readily notice, the last two titles are previously unissued in this country on 78's and as there are two versions of both these titles, it will later transpire which ones have been used on the L.P. disc. "Evelina" and "The Eagle and Me" were recorded at the same session on both occasions; one being 13th October 1944, and again just over a month later on 24th November 1944.

Next we have LA8684 "YOURS IS MY HEART ALONE". All the titles on this disc being re-issues of those we have had previously on 78's, are as follows:- "Yours Is My Heart Alone"; "Beautiful Love"; "I Kiss Your Hand Madame"; "The Kiss In Your Eyes"; "Girl Of My Dreams"; "I'll Remember April"; "It Must Be True"; "I Surrender Dear".

Lastly from the Decca Company comes LA8686, "MERRY CHRISTMAS". Here again we've had these before on 78's and are:- "Silent Night"; "Adeste Fidelis"; "White Christmas"; "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"; "I'll Be Home For Christmas"; "Faith Of Our Fathers"; "Jingle Bells"; "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town".

I mentioned the Decca Company just now, for now comes a couple of L.P.'s issued by E.M.I. on their Columbia Label. More correctly, one is an L.P. at 33 1/3rd rpm, and the other is an Extended Play known as E.P., at 45 rpm. This is a seven inch disc selling at 11/3d and the catalogue number is SEG7522. Under the simple title of "BING CROSBY" it contains three songs: "Try A Little Tenderness"; "How Deep Is The Ocean"; "Love Me Tonight". Many of you will be delighted with the opportunity of obtaining "Love Me Tonight", long since deleted on 78. The 33 1/3 L.P. is entitled "CROSBY CLASSICS" and bears the number 33S1036. The titles on this one are:- "I've Got The World On A String"; "Thanks"; "Down The Old Ox Road"; "How Deep Is The Ocean"; "My Honey's Lovin' Arms"; "Please"; "Some Of These Days"; "Shine". They seem very fond of re-issuing "How Deep Is The Ocean", appearing as it does on both the Columbia discs, but "Down The Old Ox Road" will probably be considered by many as the best "bite" of this selection.

I understand that during August, American Decca issued an album consisting of five 12 inch L.P. Records called: "BING. AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF BING CROSBY". This set sells over there for 25 dollars and the idea behind their production and issue, is to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Record Company. The album contains 89 songs sung by Bing and he also does an introduction to each. Forty of these songs are re-issues from existing Decca masters, but the other 49 have been re-recorded by Bing with the Buddy Cole Trio, as Decca do not own the original masters, i.e., ones such as "Muddy Water"; "Mississippi Mud"; "Paradise"; "Just An Echo"; "Thanks"; "My Kinda Love"; "Sweet And Lovely" etc. The master of this latter one does belong to Decca but perhaps they are not going to use the Brunswick masters they do own, only their later Deccas.

I was looking through a French Columbia catalogue the other day and came across an L.P. Record of Bing's earlier songs. The catalogue number is 33FP1013 and the eight songs thereon are:- "Sweet Georgia Brown"; "After Sundown"; "Please"; "Temptation"; "Love In Bloom"; "Paradise"; "Brother Can You Spare A Dime"; "Thanks". This may interest some of you who are collecting L.P.'s or who are requiring some of these titles anyway. The only address I could see on the catalogue was: Rue de Commerce, Tours, France.

Watch for Bing's own story on how to bring up four sons, in the next issue of "Post" !

An "X" HERE :--	INDICATES THAT YOUR MEMBERSHIP EXPIRES BEFORE THE NEXT JOURNAL. ALL RENEWALS SHOULD BE SENT TO DOT HARDIMAN, 1/17, NEW STREET, SMETHWICK, STAFFS.
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N.B. 'A Letter From The Dingle Tuck Shop' By Lil. Williams, is unavoidably held over until our next issue.
We gratefully acknowledge receipt of 2/6 from Lil towards expenses.